

## News from SALEM COUNTY

Office of Public Information

Mr. Robin B. Weinstein, Public Information Officer Office Phone: (856) 935-7510 ext. 8202

After Hours: (856) 297-5433

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## FREEHOLDERS AND SHERIFF ANNOUNCE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY STAFFING PLANS

(MANNINGTON TWP., NJ)—Freeholder David T. Lindenmuth, Chair of the County Public Safety and Shared Services Committee, and Sheriff Charles Miller today announced that the Freeholders have accepted a plan developed in collaboration with Sheriff Miller to reduce the number of overtime hours at the Correctional Facility. The plan outlines the steps to be taken to reduce the \$2.8 million in overtime spent in 2008 by hiring 21 additional officers by December 2010.

"Overtime is an issue that the Freeholders and Sheriff have been concerned with, and we are hopeful that this plan will curb the burgeoning cost to the taxpayer," said Freeholder Lindenmuth. "Our last round of contract negotiations yielded some fruitful concessions in overtime language that, with the additional manpower, should reduce the number of overtime hours at the Correctional Facility. More importantly, this plan will ensure the safety of the dedicated officers employed at the Facility and improve working conditions there."

Currently the County has 100 correctional officers employed at the jail. According to a NJ Department of Corrections audit in 2002, the County Correctional Facility should be complimented with additional officers. The proposed deal would allow for 14 new hires this year and 7 in 2010.

"Public safety is paramount and we aim to reduce the cost to the taxpayer without compromising safety," said Sheriff Charles Miller. "I am grateful for the Freeholders' willingness to hire new officers so that we can attempt to curb the growing overtime costs at the Correctional Facility. The new officers will allow for better working conditions by reducing the need for mandatory overtime which will yield positive results for the County and the taxpayer."